



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

July's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) remained constant from June at 3.7 percent as seen in Northeast Table 1. While Bingham and Butte Counties showed slight decreases month-over-month, the decreases were not enough to lower the LMA rate by even a tenth of a percentage point since the rates in Bonneville and Jefferson Counties remained the same. Year-over-year, the Bonneville LMA's unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point while Butte County showed the greatest change by dropping 2.2 percentage points. While the Butte County data shows 16 more people in the labor force, it also shows 34 fewer unemployed people compared to July 2003. A change of 34 people in a county with a small labor force makes a large change in the unemployment rate. Bingham County decreased one-tenth of a percentage point and Jefferson County increased two-tenths of a percentage point, while Bonneville County remained constant. Butte County had the lowest unemployment rate in the LMA at 3.1 percent, followed closely by Bonneville County at 3.3 percent. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA increased, experienced one-tenth of a percentage point increase from June, but remained constant at 3.4 percent compared to July 2003. The LMA's July 2004 unemployment rate was 1.2 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 4.9 percent and 1.8 percentage points lower than the national rate of 5.5 percent.

Of the other six counties in Northeast Idaho, Fremont, Madison and Teton Counties showed only slight increases of one- to three-tenths of a percentage point over the month while Clark, Custer and Lemhi Counties showed six- to seven-tenths of a percentage point decreases from June to July. Typically, rural counties that are more heavily involved in agriculture can be affected during this time if wholesaling or proc-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Jul 2004*	Jun 2004	Jul 2003	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	87,490	88,120	84,720	-0.7	3.3
Unemployment	3,240	3,290	3,210	-1.5	0.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.7	3.8		
Total Employment	84,240	84,830	81,510	-0.7	3.3
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	89,230	89,740	86,420	-0.6	3.3
Unemployment	2,870	2,810	2,830	2.1	1.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.1	3.3		
Total Employment	86,360	86,920	83,590	-0.6	3.3
<b>JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS</b>	67,710	68,730	66,300	-1.5	2.1
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	11,070	10,960	10,720	1.0	3.3
Natural Resources & Mining	80	70	70	14.3	14.3
Construction	6,140	5,950	5,210	3.2	17.9
Manufacturing	4,850	4,940	5,440	-1.8	-10.8
Food Manufacturing	2,750	2,810	2,870	-2.1	-4.2
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	300	280	270	7.1	11.1
Machinery Manufacturing	410	420	450	-2.4	-8.9
Other Manufacturing	1,390	1,430	1,850	-2.8	-24.9
<b>Service-Providing Industries</b>	56,640	57,770	55,580	-2.0	1.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	15,690	15,820	15,210	-0.8	3.2
Wholesale Trade	5,300	5,400	5,120	-1.9	3.5
Retail Trade	8,450	8,480	8,250	-0.4	2.4
Utilities	120	120	120	0.0	0.0
Transportation	1,820	1,820	1,720	0.0	5.8
Information	1,130	1,120	980	0.9	15.3
Financial Activities	2,230	2,230	2,210	0.0	0.9
Professional & Business Services	12,170	12,210	12,280	-0.3	-0.9
Educational & Health Services	6,890	6,860	6,570	0.4	4.9
Leisure & Hospitality	5,700	5,670	5,620	0.5	1.4
Other Services	2,090	2,030	2,260	3.0	-7.5
Government Education	4,010	5,030	4,080	-20.3	-1.7
Government Administration	6,730	6,800	6,370	-1.0	5.7

\*Preliminary Estimate

\*\*Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

essing of the commodities are done in the same county. Agriculture in rural communities has an influence on the number of unemployed people during these months, especially if commodities are processed or sold at wholesale out of the same county where they are grown. The capability and longevity of the storage facilities for fresh produce affects businesses relying on the commodities, and farmers sometimes hold onto their products for better prices from May to July if storage facilities are adequate to do so. So, unemployment can increase or decrease depending on whether businesses can still obtain enough product to operate. In July employers can more easily shut down operations and keep only minimum staff to help with maintenance.

Year-over-year changes were slight except for an increase in Clark County's unemployment of nine-tenths of a percentage point and Madison

County's decrease of eight-tenths of a percentage point. Clark County is still experiencing employee changes from a major employer's restructuring, and many new businesses have opened in Madison County over the year. Fremont County had the highest unemployment rate of the six counties at 6.6 percent while Madison County had the lowest at 1.6 percent.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* decreased by 1,020 jobs over the month for a total of 67,710 jobs for July. *Government Education* jobs showed the greatest loss (which is also the same amount of the total *Nonfarm Payroll Job* decrease – 1,020). This is expected at this time of year since June starts summer vacation for the schools. All other small job losses and gains even out to zero. *Construction* added the most jobs at 190. The year 2004 continues to be a good one for *Construction*.

Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,410. *Construction* added the most at over 900 jobs. Both residential and commercial projects were well underway and going strong in the three larger counties. *Retail* and *Wholesale Trade* combined added 380 jobs. With interest rates still low and national threats at a distance, consumer confidence seemed to be strong. *Government Administration* jobs increased by 360 as three of the four counties in the LMA continued to add population, increasing the need for most services. *Educational & Health Services* also increased by over 300 jobs with medical facilities expanding and growing as demand warranted. Losses were noted in *Manufacturing*; 460 of the 590 jobs were lost in *Other Manufacturing* (manufacturing other than food, fabricated metal products, and machinery). All other industry losses were fewer than 200 jobs each.

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- Many residents have been watching the renovation of the building at the corner of Rollandet Avenue and Sunnyside Road, wondering if a new business would locate there. It ends up that DocuTech, a company that has been in Idaho Falls for 13 years, is moving there from its current location off of Lincoln Road. The newly renovated DocuTech building has 14,000-square feet of office space, accommodating up to 120 employees, and is equipped with full fiber optic uplink for secure data exchange. DocuTech provides compliance services and documentation technology for the mortgage industry. The company relocated due to a substantial increase in business over the past few years.

### Madison County

- Jensen Jewelers recently opened a new store in the Teton River Village on North Second East in Rexburg. The store employs five full-time employees along with manager Josh Dalton. Don and Mary Jensen founded Jensen Jewelers in Twin Falls in 1956. The new Rexburg store brings the total num-

ber of Jensen Jewelers to 12 throughout Idaho, Montana, and Nevada.

- Promark Research is the newest call center to move into Rexburg. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, the call center conducts mostly political opinion polling and research for legislators and presidential campaigns. The company also conducts research for communities and polls consumers on how much they are willing to pay for specific products. Promark cited a strong work ethic and a growing number of BYU-Idaho students as factors in locating in Rexburg rather than four other states it was evaluating. The company currently employs about 40 people, but will have 60 to 70 full- and part-time employees soon and plans to expand to 100 workers in plus 15 to 20 administrators. This is the third location for the company. Houston and Huntsville, Texas, are the other locations. It is located at the corner of Main and Center Streets.
- Bob Carlson finally decided what to do with his lot that has been vacant at Main and Center Streets for almost six years. From 1941 until the end of 1997, the site was home to Rexburg Food Center but was razed for other pursuits. Now construction is underway to add Main Street Crossing, a four-unit strip mall, to this prime Rexburg location. The completed project will be 7,000-square feet and each unit will sport a different front facade design. Gandolfo's New York Delicatessen, owned by Darren Ernst, will be the first tenant. Other tenants have not been identified.
- Big O Tires has started construction at the corner of Second East and Seventh North in Rexburg. This was the location of Central Park Burgers, but that business is being relocated to the other side of the street in a vacant lot north of Horkley's service station.

### Other Counties

- Family Dollar Stores is opening new locations in Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, and St. Anthony. The nationwide chain store is similar to King's or Ben Franklin's. The store offers a variety of goods—from clothes to office supplies—at discount prices. The Idaho Falls location is at 145 North Woodruff Avenue south of WinCo Foods. Blackfoot's location is at 67 Southwest Main Street. El Dorado Saloon will be razed to make room for the store. The St. Anthony location is in downtown. Family Dollar has 5,300 stores in 44 states.

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